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7
8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

10
11 In re IsoRay, Inc. Securities Litigation

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14 This document relates to:
15 All actions

16 Master File No. 4:15-cv-5046-LRS

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25 **PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES,
REIMBURSEMENT OF
EXPENSES, AND AWARDS TO
LEAD PLAINTIFFS**

March 7, 2017
With Oral Argument 10:30 a.m.
Yakima Courthouse – Room 203

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STATUTES & RULES

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1 Court-appointed Co-Lead Counsel Wolf Haldenstein Adler Freeman & Herz
 2 LLP and The Rosen Law Firm, along with Court-appointed Liaison Counsel Law
 3 Offices of Clifford A. Cantor, P.C. (collectively, “Plaintiffs’ Counsel”) respectfully
 4 move for (i) an award of attorneys’ fees in the amount of 30% of the Settlement
 5 Fund, or \$1,061,250, in connection with the successful prosecution of this securities
 6 class action; (ii) reimbursement of \$29,296.68 in expenses reasonably and
 7 necessarily incurred in prosecuting the Action; and (iii) \$15,000 total in awards to
 8 Lead Plaintiffs Bodgan Ostrowski, Joseph Kavanaugh, and Patrick McNamara
 9 (\$4,000 each) and named Plaintiffs Timothy Yuen and JM Zuleta (\$1,500 each) in
 10 connection with their service as Plaintiffs in the Action.

11 **I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

12 On behalf of the Class, Lead Plaintiffs and named Plaintiffs, through
 13 Plaintiffs’ Counsel, negotiated an excellent settlement of this action with defendants
 14 IsoRay Inc. and its CEO and Chair Dwight Babcock.

15 The reaction of the Class strongly supports the requested fee. The deadline to
 16 request exclusion from the Settlement is February 4, 2017 and the deadline to object
 17 to the Settlement is February 15, 2017. Declaration of Matthew M. Guiney and
 18 Philip Kim in Support of Final Approval (“Joint Decl.”) ¶¶ 31, 32. To date, ***not a***
 19 ***single objection*** and only one request for exclusion have been received. *Id.* Over
 20 13,000 notices were mailed to Class Members. *Id.* at ¶ 33. The Notice advised Class
 21 Members that Plaintiffs’ Counsel intended to apply to the Court for an award of
 22 attorneys’ fees representing up to 30% of the Settlement Fund and that Plaintiffs
 23 would seek reimbursement of Plaintiffs’ Counsel’s out-of-pocket expenses not to
 24 exceed \$50,000 and awards to the Lead Plaintiffs of up to \$15,000 in the aggregate.
 25

1 *Id.* at ¶ 33.

2 Plaintiffs' Counsel believe that an attorney-fee award of 30% properly reflects
 3 the many significant risks taken by Plaintiffs' Counsel, as well as the excellent result
 4 achieved in a hard fought and difficult litigation. Plaintiffs' Counsel and their
 5 professional support staff expended over 1,153 hours in the prosecution of this
 6 Action, with a resulting lodestar of \$715,791.50. *Id.* at ¶ 35. The requested fee of
 7 30% of the Settlement Fund results in a modest multiplier of only 1.48. A multiplier
 8 in this range is fair and reasonable considering the risks that Plaintiffs' Counsel took
 9 in prosecuting this Action and under the applicable standards in the Ninth Circuit.
 10 Similarly, the expenses requested are reasonable in amount and were necessarily
 11 incurred for the successful prosecution of the Action.

12 Plaintiffs' Counsel respectfully submit that these attorneys' fees and expenses
 13 are fair and reasonable under applicable legal standards and in light of the
 14 contingency risk undertaken, and should be awarded by the Court.

15 **II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

16 This is set forth in the Joint Declaration and Plaintiffs' Motion for Final
 17 Approval. For brevity, it is incorporated by reference and not repeated here. *Id.* at
 18 ¶¶ 3-28.

19 **III. THE COURT SHOULD AWARD FEES AND EXPENSES**

20 For their efforts in creating a common fund for the benefit of the Class,
 21 Plaintiffs' Counsel seeks an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses. "[A]
 22 litigant or a lawyer who recovers a common fund for the benefit of persons other
 23 than himself or his client is entitled to a reasonable attorneys' fee from the fund as a
 24 whole." *Boeing Co. v. Van Gemert*, 444 U.S. 472, 478 (1980)). This allows the cost
 25

1 of litigation to be spread proportionately among the beneficiaries and provides an
 2 incentive for attorneys to pursue cases when the prospect of compensation is
 3 uncertain and remote in time

4 **A. Reasonable Percentage of the “Common Fund” Recovered
 5 Is an Appropriate Method of Awarding Attorneys’ Fees**

6 In class action settlements that produce a common fund, district courts
 7 traditionally employ one of two methods for determining reasonable attorneys’ fees:
 8 (1) the percentage method, and (2) the lodestar method, in which the court calculates
 9 the lodestar and then adjusts it by an appropriate multiplier to reflect the time and
 10 labor expended, the novelty and difficulty of the issues involved, and the results
 11 achieved, among other factors. *See Hanlon v. Chrysler Corp.*, 150 F.3d 1011, 1029
 12 (9th Cir. 1998); *In re Wash. Pub. Power Supply Sys. Sec. Litig.*, 19 F.3d 1291, 1300
 13 (9th Cir. 1994) (“WPPSS”).

14 Under either method, a fee award should be ““reasonable under the
 15 circumstances.”” *WPPSS*, 19 F.3d at 1295 (citation omitted).

16 **1. The Percentage Approach**

17 The Ninth Circuit has repeatedly approved the use of the percentage method
 18 in common fund cases. *See, e.g., Vizcaino v. Microsoft Corp.*, 290 F.3d 1043, 1047
 19 (9th Cir. 2002). “[U]se of the percentage method in common fund cases appears to
 20 be dominant.” *Morales v. Conopco, Inc.*, No. 13-2213, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS
 21 144349, *20 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 18, 2016).

22 There are good reasons why many courts opt for the percentage approach in
 23 common fund cases. *First*, it is consistent with the private marketplace where
 24 contingent fees are customarily a percentage of the recovery. *See In re Activision*
 25 *Sec. Litig.*, 723 F. Supp. 1373 (N.D. Cal. 1989) (in the marketplace, attorneys and

1 their clients routinely negotiate 25% to 40% fees). *Second*, it aligns the lawyers' 2 interest in a fair fee with the interest of the class in achieving the maximum recovery 3 in the shortest time. *See Aichele v. City of L.A.*, No. 12-10863, 2015 U.S. Dist. 4 LEXIS 120225, *15 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2015) ("the percentage of the available fund 5 analysis is the preferred approach in class action fee requests because it more closely 6 aligns the interests of the counsel and the class"). *Third*, use of the percentage-of- 7 recovery method decreases the burden on the court (by avoiding a detailed lodestar 8 analysis), while assuring that the beneficiaries do not experience unnecessary delay. 9 *See Activision*, 723 F. Supp. at 1378-79.

10 When using the percentage-of-the-fund method, courts may consider "the 11 extent to which class counsel 'achieved exceptional results for the class,' whether 12 the case was risky for class counsel [...] the market rate for the particular field of law 13 (in some circumstances), the burdens class counsel experienced while litigating the 14 case (e.g., cost, duration, foregoing other work), and whether the case was handled 15 on a contingency basis." *In re Online DVD-Rental Antitrust Litig.*, 779 F.3d 934, 16 954-55 (9th Cir. 2015). Courts also consider counsel's skill, the complexity of the 17 issues, and the reactions of the class. *See Aichele*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 120225, 18 **12-13.

19 Plaintiffs' Counsel respectfully submit that the Court should employ the 20 percentage-of-recovery method to award attorneys' fees, and use an informal 21 lodestar cross-check to confirm reasonableness. *Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1050, n.5 22 ("The lodestar method is merely a cross-check on the reasonableness of a percentage 23 figure"); *Glass v. UBS Fin. Servs., Inc.*, 331 F. App'x. 452, 456 (9th Cir. 2009) ("the 24 district court properly performed an informal lodestar cross-check"); *Six (6) Mexican* 25

1 *Workers v. Arizona Citrus Growers*, 904 F.2d 1301, 1311 (9th Cir. 1990) (suggesting
 2 a lodestar cross-check and adjustment in special circumstances when “the percentage
 3 recovery would be either too small or too large in light of the hours devoted to the
 4 case or other relevant factors”). This analysis confirms the reasonableness of a 30%
 5 fee award here.

6 **2. In Securities Cases, Fees Typically Exceed the Benchmark**

7 The Ninth Circuit has established a benchmark in common fund cases of 25%,
 8 which the court may adjust upwards or downwards for special circumstances. *In re*
 9 *Pac. Enterprises Sec. Litig.*, 47 F.3d 373, 379 (9th Cir. 1995).

10 In securities class actions, awards typically exceed the benchmark. *In re*
 11 *Omnivision Techs., Inc.*, 559 F. Supp. 2d 1036, 1047-48 (N.D. Cal. 2007);
 12 *Activision*, 723 F. Supp. at 1377-78 (in securities cases, “absent extraordinary
 13 circumstances . . ., the rate should be set at 30%). *Accord Romero v. Producers Dairy*
 14 *Foods, Inc.*, No. 05-484, 2007 WL 3492841, *4 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 14, 2007)
 15 (approving a fee award of 33% of the common fund, and stating “[e]mpirical studies
 16 show that, regardless whether the percentage method or the lodestar method is used,
 17 fee awards in class actions average around one-third of the recovery”). That is
 18 because securities class actions are especially expensive and risky. *Cf. Stanger v.*
 19 *China Electric Motor, Inc.*, 812 F.3d 734, 741 (9th Cir. 2016) (risk enhancement of
 20 attorneys’ fees is “especially important in securities cases”).

21 **B. An Award of 30% of the Fund Is Reasonable in This Case**

22 In the Ninth Circuit, courts consider at least these factors to evaluate
 23 reasonableness of a fee request: “(1) the results achieved, (2) the risk of litigation,
 24 (3) the skill required and the quality of work, (4) the contingent nature of the fee,
 25 and (5) awards made in similar cases.” *Stemple v. QC Holdings*, No. 12-1997, 2016

1 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 157244 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 7, 2016) (citing *Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at
 2 1048-50). These factors support approval of the requested fees.

3 **1. Counsel Achieved an Excellent Result for the Class**

4 “The overall result and benefit to the class from the litigation is the most
 5 critical factor in granting a fee award.” *Deaver v. Compass Bank*, No. 13-222, 2015
 6 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 166484, *34 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 11, 2015). And courts in the Ninth
 7 Circuit commonly grant fee awards of or in excess of 30% where counsel achieves
 8 an excellent result. *Morris v. Lifescan, Inc.*, 54 F. App’x 663, 664 (9th Cir. 2003)
 9 (affirming 33%); *Pacific Enterprises*, 47 F.3d at 379 (affirming 33%); *In re Heritage*
 10 *Bond Litig.*, No. 02-1475, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13555, **62-75 (C.D. Cal. Jun.
 11 10, 2005) (33½%); *Deaver*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 166484, *31-42 (33%); *Boyd v.*
 12 *Bank of Am. Corp.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 162880, **31-32 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 18,
 13 2014) (33½%); *Vandervort v. Balboa Capital Corp.*, 8 F. Supp. 3d 1200, 1210 (C.D.
 14 Cal. 2014) (33%).

15 Further, because a large percentage of a small settlement fund is still a smaller
 16 dollar amount, courts take into account the size of the settlement fund when making
 17 an award. *Aichele*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 120225, **15-16. “In ‘megafund’ cases,
 18 fees will commonly be under the benchmark, while in smaller cases — particularly
 19 where the common fund is under \$10 million — awards more frequently exceed the
 20 benchmark.” *Vandervort*, 8 F. Supp. 3d at 1209. *Accord In re Payment Card*
 21 *Interchange Fee & Merch. Disc. Antitrust Litig.*, 991 F. Supp. 2d 437, 445 (E.D.N.Y.
 22 2014) (“it is very common to see 33% contingency fees in cases with funds of less
 23 than \$10 million”).

24 The Settlement Fund of \$3,357,500 is an excellent result. Typical recoveries
 25 in securities cases average 8.6% for cases of this size. Joint Decl. ¶ 39 & Ex. D

1 (NERA 2015 *Review* at 33, Fig. 29 (during 1996-2015, for securities class action
 2 settlements with estimated investor losses of between \$20-49 million, the median
 3 settlement value was 8.6% of investor losses)).

4 Here, the \$3,357,500 represents approximately 30% of the Defendants' total
 5 *maximum* estimated liability (which defendants estimated at well below that figure)
 6 (Joint Decl., ¶ 40), and consequently is well above average for this type of case.

7 The Settlement will be allocated *pro rata* among Class Members who file a
 8 claim. The Court-approved claims administrator, Strategic Claims Services ("SCS"),
 9 informed Plaintiffs' Counsel that as of January 27, 2017 it received a total of 301
 10 valid claims representing Recognized Losses of \$1,679,854. SCS has also received
 11 148 deficient claims (meaning that those claims are not accompanied by proper
 12 documentation) representing Recognized Losses in the amount of \$575,619. SCS
 13 will contact those Class Members who and provide an opportunity to submit proper
 14 documentation. Assuming that 100% of the deficient claims are remedied, total
 15 Recognized Losses thus far are \$2,255,473. This \$2,255,473 in claims will result in
 16 close to a 100% recovery even *after* payment of the requested fees and expenses —
 17 a result that would be unusual and extraordinary. SCS is likely to receive additional
 18 late claims, which it will accept, between now and the time of the Settlement hearing,
 19 and Plaintiffs' Counsel will update the Court.

20 This extraordinary result supports Plaintiffs' Counsel's fee request.

21 **2. Risks and Burdens Class Counsel Experienced and**
 22 **Whether the Case Was Handled on a Contingency Basis**

23 This case had and still has significant risk to the Class and its counsel. These
 24 potential pitfalls are described in Plaintiffs' motion for final approval. But Plaintiffs
 25

1 have already surmounted some obstacles that made this case exceptionally risky.

2 First, the PSLRA imposes formidable pleading burdens. *In re BP P.L.C. Sec.*
 3 *Litig.*, 852 F. Supp. 2d 767, 820 (S.D. Tex. 2012) (“The Court is acutely aware that
 4 federal legislation and authoritative precedents have created for plaintiffs in all
 5 securities actions formidable challenges to successful pleading.”). Studies show that
 6 59% of all securities class actions filed in each of 2010 and 2011 were dismissed.
 7 This risk warrants consideration. See *In re Ikon Office Solutions*, 194 F.R.D. 166,
 8 194-95 (E.D. Pa. 2000) (taking into account pleading burdens imposed by PSLRA
 9 in awarding attorneys’ fees).

10 Second, Defendants would not have been able to pay a significant judgment.
 11 Joint Decl., ¶ 42. This collectability risks supports a higher award. *Rieckborn v. Velti*
 12 *PLC*, No. 13-3889, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13542, *28 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 3, 2015)
 13 (defendant’s precarious financial condition justified risk enhancement); *In re*
 14 *Diamond Foods, Inc., Sec. Litig.*, No. 11-5386, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 3252, **8-9
 15 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 10, 2014) (same).

16 Third, Plaintiffs’ Counsel undertook this case on a wholly contingent basis,
 17 with no client paying hourly fees. *See Willner v. Manpower Inc.*, No. 11-2846, 2015
 18 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 80697, **9-11, 18-19 (N.D. Cal. June 22, 2015) (30%). Counsel
 19 have spent 1,153 hours thus far and not been paid for their efforts. Joint Decl., ¶ 46.
 20 Here, the risk was not just that the case would be dismissed. When a law firm takes
 21 on a case on contingency, it incurs the obligation to continue with representation
 22 (including through appeals) even if it becomes clear that the case will never be
 23 profitable. Plaintiffs’ Counsel risked that it would not be able to secure a substantial
 24 settlement until the eve of trial, or would spend thousands of hours of time and
 25

1 hundreds of thousands of dollars in litigation costs taking this case through trial (and
 2 appeals) to obtain a judgment no better than the Settlement they have today. These
 3 risk factors support the fee request.

4 **3. The Skill Required, the Complexity of the Issues,
 5 and the Quality and Efficiency of The Work**

6 Plaintiffs' Counsel has extensive experience in securities class actions. They
 7 prosecuted this action efficiently and with skill. The "prosecution and management
 8 of a complex national class action requires unique legal skills and abilities." *Knight*
 9 *v. Red Door Salons, Inc.*, No. 08-1520, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11149, *16 (N.D.
 10 Cal. Feb. 2, 2009). The standing and prior experience of Plaintiffs' Counsel are
 11 relevant in determining fair compensation. *See, e.g., Detroit v. Grinnell Corp.*, 495
 12 F.2d 448, 470 (2d Cir. 1974).

13 Plaintiffs' Counsel possesses those skills, especially in the narrow field of
 14 securities litigation. Joint Decl. at Exs. A and B. "The Rosen Law Firm has appeared
 15 before this Court several times before, and the Court is confident that it has the
 16 necessary skill and knowledge to effectively prosecute this action." *Pace v.*
 17 *Quintanilla*, No. 14-2067, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 116925, *6 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 19,
 18 2014). "Not all, perhaps even most, plaintiffs' class counsel could have litigated this
 19 case as successfully as did [Wolf Haldenstein] against such a fierce and
 20 exceptionally accomplished opponent." *Good Morning to You Production Corp., et*
 21 *al., v. Warner/Chappell Music, Inc., et al.*, 13-cv-04460-GHK-MRW, Dkt. No. 370
 22 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 16, 2016).

23 The quality of opposing counsel is also important in evaluating the quality of
 24 Plaintiffs' Counsel's work. *See, e.g., In re Equity Funding Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 438 F.
 25

1 Supp. 1303, 1337 (C.D. Cal. 1977) (“plaintiffs' attorneys in this class action have
 2 been up against established and skillful defense lawyers, and should be compensated
 3 accordingly”). Plaintiffs were opposed in this litigation by a nationally preeminent
 4 securities defense litigator. Joint Decl., ¶ 44. *See* <https://www.superlawyers.com/washington/article/the-overdog/cd6e0fac-277e-4e3e-98d3-f3bde06fe0bc.html>.

6 Given the difficult and hotly contested issues of loss causation, scienter, and
 7 damages, only highly skilled counsel could have successfully represented the Class
 8 and obtained such a favorable recovery. Joint Decl., ¶ 45. To effectively plead and
 9 prosecute the litigation, Plaintiffs' Counsel had to become familiar with
 10 brachytherapy and different treatments for non-small cell lung cancer as well as
 11 probe complex issues regarding the pleading and proof of falsity, the truth-on-the-
 12 market defense, and scienter.

13 It is particularly important to reward attorneys with skill and standing for
 14 pursuing such cases as “the stated goal in percentage fee-award cases [is] ‘ensuring
 15 that competent counsel continue to be willing to undertake risky, complex, and novel
 16 litigation.’” *Gunter v. Ridgewood Energy*, 223 F.3d 190, 198 (3rd Cir. 2000).

17 Further, Plaintiffs' Counsel litigated this Action efficiently. The lodestar of
 18 \$715,791.50 to take this case through motions to dismiss, partial discovery, and
 19 mediation, is lower than many other cases arising out of the PSLRA that did not even
 20 proceed beyond the pleadings. *In re Am. Apparel, Inc. S'holder Litig.*, No. 10-6352,
 21 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 184548, **86-87 (C.D. Cal. July 28, 2014) (lodestar of \$2.0
 22 million for case that settled before discovery began); *Rieckborn*, 2015 U.S. Dist.
 23 LEXIS 13542, **74-78 (lodestar of \$1.9 million before significant motion practice).

24 The skill required, complexity, and efficiency support the fee request.
 25

4. The Contingent Nature of the Fee

If this were not a class action, the customary fee arrangement would be contingent, on a percentage basis, and in the range of 30% to 40% of the recovery. *See, e.g., Blum v. Stevenson*, 465 U.S. 886, 903 n.20 (1984) (“In tort suits, an attorney might receive one third of whatever amount the Plaintiff recovers. In those cases, therefore, the fee is directly proportional to the recovery”); *In re M.D.C. Holdings Sec. Litig.*, No. 89-90, 1990 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15488, *22 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 30, 1990) (“In private contingent litigation, fee contracts have traditionally ranged between 30% and 40% of the total recovery”). That the customary contingent fee in the private marketplace is equal to or greater than 30% supports Plaintiffs’ Counsel’s request.

5. A 30% Fee Award Is Consistent with Awards in Similar Complex Class Actions

As discussed above, in most common-fund securities cases — especially smaller ones (under \$10 million) — the percentage awarded exceeds the Ninth Circuit’s 25% benchmark. *See supra* at A.2, B.1. *Accord Activision*, 723 F. Supp. at 1377 (collecting cases and observing that “in most recent cases the benchmark is closer to 30%”). *See also Singer v. Becton Dickinson & Co.*, No. 08-821, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 53416, *20-23 (S.D. Cal. June 1, 2010) (awarding 33.33% and collecting cases).

“This is particularly true in securities class actions such as this.” *In re American Apparel*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 184548, *75; *see also In re Pacific Enters.*, 47 F.3d at 379 (affirming 33% award of \$12 million fund); *In re Mego Fin. Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 213 F.3d 454, 463 (9th Cir. 2000) (affirming 33½% of recovery); Joint Decl. ¶39. at Ex. D (*NERA 2015 Review* at 36, Fig. 32) (during 2011-2015, for

1 securities class action settlements under \$5 million, the median fee plus expenses
 2 totaled 34.3% of the settlement fund). This factor also supports Plaintiffs' Counsel's
 3 30% fee request.

4 **C. A Lodeskstar Cross-Check Shows the Fee Request Is Reasonable**

5 When courts in the Ninth Circuit base a fee award on a percentage of the
 6 recovery, they cross-check the reasonableness by examining counsel's lodeskstar.
 7 "Calculation of the lodeskstar, which measures the lawyers' investment of time in the
 8 litigation, provides a check on the reasonableness of the percentage award."
 9 *Vizcaino*, 290 F.3d at 1050. Regardless of whether the Court employs the percentage
 10 method or the lodeskstar method for determining fees, *see id.* at 1047, Plaintiffs'
 11 Counsel respectfully submit that their request is reasonable.

12 Under the lodeskstar method, courts often award fees that are a multiple higher
 13 than counsel's lodeskstar in order to recognize and compensate counsel's having
 14 assumed the representation without any assured payment of any fees. For example,
 15 in *Vizcaino*, the Ninth Circuit wrote that "courts have routinely enhanced the lodeskstar
 16 to reflect the risk of non-payment in common fund cases. ... This mirrors the
 17 established practice in the private legal market of rewarding attorneys for taking the
 18 risk of nonpayment by paying them a premium over their normal hourly rates for
 19 winning contingency cases." *Id.* at 1051.¹

20 In total, Plaintiffs' Counsel spent over 1,153 hours in the prosecution of this

21

22 ¹ The "multiplier" analysis is different in cases governed by (i) Washington
 23 state law or (ii) federal fee-shifting statutes (*i.e.*, where the defendant pays a
 24 prevailing plaintiff's fees), in which the lodeskstar is presumptively a reasonable fee
 25 without a multiplier.

1 Action on behalf of Lead Plaintiffs and the Class. Joint Decl. ¶ 43; *see also*
 2 Declaration of Cliff Cantor, submitted as Exhibit E to the Joint Decl. The number of
 3 hours expended by Plaintiffs' Counsel is reasonable in light of the hard-fought nature
 4 of the litigation and the complexity of the issues involved. Plaintiffs' Counsel sought
 5 throughout this litigation to avoid duplication of effort by counsel. *See* Joint Decl. ¶
 6 37. Moreover, Plaintiffs' Counsel have reviewed their time records and eliminated
 7 certain entries in the exercise of billing judgment. *Id.*²

8 Here, the total lodestar of Plaintiffs' Counsel, derived by multiplying the
 9 reasonable hours worked by the current market hourly rate for each attorney and
 10 support staff, equals \$715,791.50. *See* Joint Decl. ¶ 47.

11 With a lodestar of \$715,791.50, the requested fee amount — i.e., \$1,061,250
 12 or 30% of the recovery — would result in a multiplier of approximately 1.48. *Id.*

13 A multiplier of 1.48 is well within the range of reasonableness or on the low
 14 end of multipliers typically awarded in contingent cases like this. *See Vizcaino*, 142
 15 F. Supp. 2d at 1306 (approving 3.65 multiplier, which was affirmed by the Ninth
 16 Circuit, and finding that most multipliers range from 1.0 to 4.0); *Pointer v. Bank of*
 17 *Am.*, N.A., No. 14-525, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 176930, **51-54 (E.D. Cal. Dec. 21,
 18 2016) (“the requested multiplier of 2.4 is within the range accepted in the Ninth
 19 Circuit ... [and] supports the requested fees here”).

20 The hourly rates of Plaintiffs' Counsel that were used to generate the lodestar
 21 are reasonable and appropriate. The lodestar calculation includes time expended by
 22 attorneys and professional support staff. *See Grays Harbor Adventist Christian Sch.*

24 ² In addition, Plaintiffs' Counsel anticipates that they will spend substantial
 25 additional time in connection with the administration of the Settlement.

1 *v. Carrier Corp.*, No. 05-5437, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106515, *14 (W.D. Wash.
 2 Apr. 24, 2008) (“The Ninth Circuit and Washington courts recognize that
 3 substantive case-related work performed by paralegals and other non-attorney staff
 4 may be included in the calculation of recoverable lodestar.”).

5 Reasonable hourly rates are determined by reference to the prevailing market
 6 rates charged by attorneys of comparable skill and experience in the community. *See*
 7 *Pelletz v. Weyerhaeuser Co.*, 592 F. Supp. 2d 1322, 1326-27 (W.D. Wash. 2009)
 8 (Coughenour, J.) (approving hourly rates of firms from New York, Illinois, Ohio,
 9 Washington, D.C. and Seattle as reasonable based on the work performed in each of
 10 the respective relevant communities by attorneys of similar skill, experience and
 11 reputation). The relevant legal community is the national market for securities class-
 12 action firms with the skill and resources to undertake litigation of this magnitude. A
 13 nationwide market is appropriate given that Defendants retained a firm of national
 14 scope in Wilson, Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

15 Even if one were to use Seattle-based billing rates for all Plaintiffs’ counsel,
 16 the requested fee is still reasonable.³ In 2011, Judge Pechman, in awarding attorneys’
 17 fees, capped attorney rates for national firms at the \$525 hourly rate charged by local
 18 counsel in Seattle. *In re Washington Mut. Sec. Litig.*, No. 08-1919, 2011 WL
 19 8190466, *1 (W.D. Wash. Nov. 4, 2011).

20 If this Court were to apply the billing rates for the Seattle community deemed
 21
 22

23 ³ *Alvarez v. IBP, Inc.*, 2001 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25341, * 10 (E.D. Wash. Dec.
 24 14, 2001) (“The court finds that the relevant market for determining the hourly rate
 25 for Plaintiffs’ counsel includes both the Seattle and Spokane areas.”)

1 suitable by Judge Pechman (more than five years ago)⁴ to the hours billed by
 2 partners, the requested fee would result in a lodestar of \$598,750.75. *See* Joint Decl.
 3 ¶ 51. The resulting multiplier using these Seattle rates is still a modest 1.77 and well
 4 within the range typically awarded in contingency fee cases.

5 Plaintiffs are unaware of lawyers in the Yakima area who have the requisite
 6 experience and resources to prosecute a securities class action such as this. If there
 7 are any, their clients did not apply to be lead plaintiff, so Plaintiffs have no
 8 knowledge of them. For this reason, the Yakima market is not the prevailing market
 9 for determining hourly rates.

10 In sum, the requested attorneys' fees are well within the range of what courts
 11 in this Circuit commonly award in complex class actions such as this one, and the
 12 requested 30% fee is reasonable and fair under both the percentage and lodestar
 13 cross-check methodologies.

14 **D. The Reaction of The Class Supports the Requested Award**

15 Although not specifically articulated by *Vizcaino*, district courts in the Ninth
 16 Circuit may consider the reaction of the class when deciding whether to award the
 17 requested fee. *See In re Heritage Bond Litig.*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 13627, *48
 18 (C.D. Cal. June 10, 2015) ("The presence or absence of objections ... is also a factor
 19 in determining the proper fee award.").

20 Plaintiffs' Counsel are making this motion before the objection deadline so
 21 that Class members have a chance to read it on the settlement website and comment

22
 23 ⁴ It is appropriate to calculate lodestar at current billing rates, as the use of
 24 current rates offsets the delay between counsel's expenditure of time and a court's
 25 award of attorneys' fees. *See Missouri v. Jenkins*, 491 U.S. 274, 282-84 (1989).

1 on it. *See In re Mercury Interactive Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 618 F.3d 988, 994 (9th Cir.
 2 2010) (“Allowing class members an opportunity thoroughly to examine counsel's
 3 fee motion, inquire into the bases for various charges and ensure that they are
 4 adequately documented and supported is essential for the protection of the rights of
 5 class members.”).

6 To date, the Settlement Notice has been sent to over 12,000 potential Class
 7 members and the Publication Notice was published in *Investor's Business Daily* and
 8 transmitted on *GlobeNewswire*. *See* Joint Decl. ¶ 52. Class members were informed
 9 in the Settlement Notice that Plaintiffs' Counsel were moving for attorneys' fees in
 10 an amount not to exceed 30% of the Settlement Fund. Class members were also
 11 advised of their right to object to the fee and expense request, and that any such
 12 objections were required to be filed with the Court and served on counsel no later
 13 than February 15, 2017.

14 As of the date of this motion, Plaintiffs' Counsel have received *no objections*
 15 to their fee and expense request. *Id.* ¶ 53. The absence of objections from Class
 16 members heavily supports Plaintiffs' Counsel's fee and expense request.

17 **E. Plaintiffs' Counsel's Expenses Are Reasonable and Were
 18 Necessary to Achieve the Benefit Obtained**

19 Plaintiffs' Counsel seek reimbursement for their actual, reasonable out-of-
 20 pocket expenses of \$29,296.98 that they necessarily incurred in prosecuting this case
 21 since inception and achieving an excellent result for the Class. Joint Decl., ¶ 54. The
 22 Notice informed Class Members that Plaintiffs' Counsel would seek reimbursement
 23 of litigation expenses of no more than \$50,000. Joint Decl., ¶ 54.

24 The Court should approve Plaintiffs' request for reimbursement. *In re Metro.*
 25

1 *Sec. Litig.*, No. 04-25, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73001, *14 (E.D. Wash. Oct. 6, 2006)
 2 (Van Sickle, J.) (“Litigation expenses are compensable in a common fund case if the
 3 particular costs are reasonable and if they are of the type typically billed by attorneys
 4 to paying clients in the market place.”) (citing *Vincent v. Hughes Air West*, 557 F.2d
 5 759, 769 (9th Cir. 1977)); *Dennings v. Clearwire Corp.*, No. 10-1859, 2013 U.S.
 6 Dist. LEXIS 64021, *27 (W.D. Wash. May 3, 2013) (“[t]he prevailing view is that
 7 expenses are awarded in addition to the fee percentage”) (citing Alba Conte,
 8 *Attorney Fee Awards* § 2:08 (3d ed. 2004)).

9 The categories of expenses for which counsel seek reimbursement are the type
 10 of expenses routinely charged to paying clients and should be reimbursed from the
 11 common fund. A breakdown of the expenses is set forth in the Joint Decl., ¶ 56.

12 The largest expenses are mediation fees and expert fees. The mediation and
 13 mediator were critical components in reaching the Settlement, and Plaintiffs’
 14 Counsel deemed a financial expert necessary to establish that IsoRay’s stock trades
 15 on an efficient market, permitting this case to proceed as a class action. Joint Decl.,
 16 ¶ 57. See *Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. v. Dukes*, 564 U.S. 338, 351 (2011) (proving market
 17 efficiency is essential to maintaining a securities class action based on
 18 misrepresentations). The expert fees are reasonable and, indeed, relatively small.
 19 *Nguyen v. Radient Pharms. Corp.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 63312, *30 (C.D. Cal.
 20 May 6, 2014) (expenses of \$420,000, of which “vast majority” were expert opinions
 21 and testimony, were reasonable).

22 The remaining expenses consist of the costs of online legal research,
 23 mediation, postage, service of process and filing, coach-class travel, and
 24 photocopying, which are customarily reimbursed in class settlements. Courts
 25

1 routinely recognize that these are expenses that should be reimbursed. *American*
 2 *Apparel*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 184548, *43 (experts and consultants, online
 3 research, airfare, lodging, ground transportation, meals while traveling, mediation,
 4 web-hosting for document review, transcripts, messengers, service of process);
 5 *Dennings*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 64021, *27 (similar).

6 To date, no objections to the expense request have been received, and the
 7 amount requested is below the \$50,000 disclosed in the Notice. Joint Decl., ¶ 58.
 8 Plaintiffs' Counsel respectfully requests reimbursement for these expenses.

9 **F. Awards to Lead and Named Plaintiffs Should Be Approved**

10 Plaintiffs' Counsel also seeks an award of \$4,000 to each of the three Lead
 11 Plaintiffs and \$1,500 to each of the two Named Plaintiffs, representing a collective
 12 award of \$15,000 to Plaintiffs.⁵

13 The PSLRA provides that courts may approve awards to reimburse lead
 14 plaintiffs for reasonable costs and expenses, including lost wages, related to
 15 representing the class. *See* 15 U.S.C. §78u-4(a)(4). The payments requested here fall
 16 well within the range that courts typically award. *E.g.*, *In re Mego Fin. Corp.*, 213
 17 F.3d at 457, 463 (affirming “a \$5,000 incentive award to each Plaintiff”).

18 Plaintiffs were actively involved in every step of the litigation, from moving
 19 for appointment as Lead Plaintiffs, to reviewing the Complaints, to collecting
 20 documents in response to Defendants' motions to dismiss and keeping apprised of
 21 both the litigation and IsoRay news. Lead Plaintiffs also oversaw settlement
 22 discussions, personally approving the Settlement before its consummation. See Joint

23
 24 ⁵ To date, not a single objection has been received to Plaintiffs' request. Joint
 25 Decl., ¶ 59.

1 Decl. ¶ 60-61 and Exs. F, G, H, I, and J. The modest incentive awards should be
 2 granted.

3 **IV. CONCLUSION**

4 Securities class actions are complex and laden with risk. In many cases no
 5 different from this one, after incurring thousands of hours of attorney time and great
 6 expense, plaintiffs' counsel received no compensation whatsoever.

7 Plaintiffs were faced with determined adversaries represented by experienced
 8 and equally determined defense counsel. Without any assurance of success,
 9 Plaintiffs and Plaintiffs' Counsel pursued this Litigation to conclusion. The
 10 Settlement represents an excellent recovery on behalf of the class and reflects the
 11 skill and dedication of Plaintiffs' Counsel.

12 Plaintiffs' Counsel respectfully request that the Court grant their motion for
 13 an award of attorneys' fees of 30% of the Settlement Fund (plus interest at the same
 14 rate and for the same period as that earned on the Settlement Fund), reimbursement
 15 of expenses of \$29,296.98, and an award to Plaintiffs totaling \$15,000.

16
 17 DATED: January 31, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

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Certificate of Service

I certify that, on the date stamped above, I caused this document to be filed with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will cause notification of filing to be emailed to all parties via their counsel of record.

s/ Cliff Cantor, WSBA # 17893